

LOUISIANA'S RECOVERY TIMELINE

August 26, 2005

Hurricane Katrina enters the Gulf of Mexico.

Governor Blanco declares a State of Emergency for Louisiana and urges citizens of South Louisiana to evacuate. Over the next 48 hours more than 1.2 million residents were evacuated from the Greater New Orleans area before Katrina made landfall.

August 29, 2005

Hurricane Katrina makes landfall.

August 30, 2005

Federal levee and hurricane protection system in New Orleans fails.

Multiple levees surrounding the City of New Orleans failed. Within hours, 80% of the city was submerged underwater.

September 15, 2005

President Bush addresses the nation from Jackson Square regarding federal hurricane relief efforts.

September 24, 2005

Hurricane Rita impacts Southwest Louisiana.

Less than one month after Hurricane Katrina and the failure of the federal levee protection system, Hurricane Rita makes landfall along the Texas-Louisiana border as a Category 3 storm.

October 17, 2005

Governor Blanco establishes the Louisiana Recovery Authority to lead the state's recovery and rebuilding efforts.

October 19, 2005

World famous Café Du Monde reopens in New Orleans.

The world famous Café Du Monde, which has served beignets and coffee to New Orleanians for more than 144 years, reopens in New Orleans.

October 28, 2005

LRA members tour devastated areas firsthand and then take their agenda to Washington.

After touring the unprecedented devastation in Southeast and Southwest Louisiana, key leaders from the LRA met with White House officials and high ranking members of Congress to discuss Louisiana's recovery needs.

October 31, 2005

Students in Cameron Parish go back to school.

Only 24 school days after Hurricane Rita destroyed 62% of their school system's facilities, school board officials reopened all six schools in Cameron Parish.

November 1, 2005

President Bush appoints FDIC Chairman Donald E. Powell as Coordinator of Federal Support for the Gulf Coast's recovery effort.

November 17, 2005

Governor Blanco launches the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps to coordinate relief services for Louisiana families.

Governor Blanco launches the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps (LFRC), an independent, non-profit organization tasked with mobilizing and coordinating the fragmented network of over 150 governmental and non-profit relief agencies providing services and resources to more than 350,000 displaced Louisiana families.

November 22, 2005

State takes over failing schools and establishes the Recovery School District.

With the Louisiana Legislature's approval of HB121, the Recovery School District was created allowing the Louisiana Department of Education to take over 102 public schools in academic crisis. Governor Blanco, who personally testified on behalf of the bill, called this a milestone in Louisiana's recovery and "an important first step in turning around the Orleans Parish School System."

November 25, 2005

New Orleans Audubon Zoo reopens.

The New Orleans Audubon Zoo reopened its doors to the general public after being closed for more than 3 months. More than 1,000 people lined up to visit the 120-year-old landmark attraction, which is one of the oldest and best known zoos in North America.

November 29, 2006

First public school in New Orleans reopens since Katrina.

Ben Franklin Elementary opens its doors to students and teachers, making it the first public school to reopen since the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. The reopening marks the first progressive step towards reviving education in the city of New Orleans.

December 1, 2005

Louisiana launches free bus service to connect displaced workers with jobs.

Using climate controlled coaches, Louisiana began transporting commuters between Baton Rouge and New Orleans to help reconnect workers with available jobs. After one month of service, roughly three out of four LA Swift commuters credited the free bus service with helping them return to work in the Greater New Orleans area.

December 15, 2005

New Orleans street cars get back on track.

The historical New Orleans “streetcars” that have served New Orleanians for decades are back on track. The streetcars, which have been a tourist attraction for many years, are expected to run 7 days a week.

December 21, 2005

GO Zone created to stimulate economic development and reinvestment along the Gulf Coast.

President Bush signed legislation passed by Congress creating the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005, which aims to boost the business sector and spur private investment along the Gulf Coast.

January 6, 2006

Twin Span Bridge reopens 8 days ahead of schedule.

Governor Blanco and the Department of Transportation and Development reopen the two west-bound lanes of the I-10 Twin Span Bridge. The two-lane bridge, which was reopened eight days ahead of schedule, served an average of 55,000 commuters a day prior to Hurricane Katrina.

January 21, 2006

Louisiana hosts Recovery Planning Day.

In partnership with FEMA’s Long Term Community Planning Division, the LRA hosted more than two dozen open houses in Louisiana, Texas, Geor-

gia, and Tennessee. Several thousand Louisiana residents — at home and displaced — took time out of their own personal recoveries to help define key priorities and principles for Louisiana’s recovery.

January 30, 2006

New Orleans’ historically black colleges and universities back in session.

Thousands of New Orleans students and faculty head back to the city’s HBCUs after many schools in the Gulf Coast region were damaged during Hurricane Katrina. Dillard and Xavier universities re-opened their doors and were expected to welcome 73% of their students back.

February 6, 2006

LRA hosts Southwest Louisiana’s first rebuilding workshop with world-renowned planner Andres Duany.

As part of Louisiana’s long-term planning initiative, the LRA hosted a 6-day workshop in Downtown Lake Charles which included a packed week of research, public input and around-the-clock design work. Throughout the charrette Andres Duany, of Duany Plater-Zyberk (DPZ) Architects and Town Planners, gathered input from citizens and local leaders that was incorporated into a long-term building plan for the area. Five days later, the Lake Charles City council unanimously endorsed key components of the master plan which envisioned, among other things, a bold re-working of the city’s underutilized waterfront and encouraged an innovative public-private corporation to accelerate downtown redevelopment.

February 14, 2006

Tulane University Hospital reopens.

After being closed for nearly 6 months, Tulane University Hospital and Clinic re-opened their doors in February with a full service emergency room and 63 inpatient beds. This marked the first step in restoring medical services to the downtown medical district of New Orleans.

February 15, 2006

President Bush requests additional \$4.2 billion from Congress for Louisiana’s housing needs.

After months of using hard facts and data to justify the need for additional funding, LRA and other state leaders caused a breakthrough in negotiations with the White House and moved Louisi-

ana one step closer to securing the funding necessary to rebuild more than 200,000 homes that were devastated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Governor Blanco, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, LRA Executive Director Andy Kopplin and other Louisiana officials flew to Washington to join Chairman Powell, President Bush's hurricane recovery coordinator, to announce that the White House is asking Congress to approve \$4.2 billion more to address Louisiana's significant housing needs.

February 19, 2006

LRA and Andres Duany wrap up neighborhood planning workshop in South Acadiana.

More than 200 residents attend the conclusion of the seven-day planning session.

February 20, 2006

Governor Blanco and the LRA outline proposal for *The Road Home* housing program.

Governor Blanco and the Louisiana Recovery Authority outlined a proposal in Lake Charles for repairing, rebuilding, and relocating homes in Louisiana that were impacted by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The proposal would give residents the funding they need to get back into their homes and to help re-establish their lives in Louisiana. Governor Blanco stressed that the rebuilding plan is preliminary and invited public input on the proposal.

March 8, 2006

Governor Blanco and LRA launch www.louisianarebuilds.info.

In partnership with PolicyLink, Governor Blanco and the LRA launched the high-tech, state-of-the-art web portal which serves as the "first stop on the way home" for displaced Louisiana residents and businesses. The web portal also serves as the starting point for residents — at home and displaced — to register for the state's housing program, known as *The Road Home*. More than 2.5 million people visited the site in its first week of operations.

March 15, 2006

St. Bernard Parish residents take part in planning the future of their communities.

More than 1,000 St. Bernard Parish residents attended a standing room only meeting at the St.

Bernard Parish Courthouse to hear the details of redesign neighborhood plans to rebuild St. Bernard Parish. During the 10-day workshop or "charrette," planners and architects worked with citizens and local leaders to develop long-term rebuilding plans for the area. As part of the LRA's long-term planning initiative, charrettes were hosted in three diverse communities that were impacted by the storms. The plans developed for downtown Lake Charles, South Acadiana, Arabi and other parts of St. Bernard Parish will serve as models for other neighborhoods that will be rebuilt.

March 16, 2006

U.S. House votes to pass emergency supplemental appropriations bill, which includes funding for Louisiana's housing needs and levee improvements.

March 20, 2006

LRA launches web-based planning tool to support recovery planning in impacted parishes.

In partnership with FEMA's Long term Community Recovery team, the LRA launched a Parish Recovery Planning Tool through www.louisianaspeaks.org. This dynamic and interactive new tool supports ongoing recovery efforts and helps facilitate continued planning at the parish level. By providing access to large amounts of community-specific planning information, the tool adds simplicity to what is otherwise a complex process.

March 22, 2006

LRA and town planners unveil Katrina Cottage II.

In an effort to bring forth concepts and opportunities where Louisiana can learn from the devastation caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the LRA and Andres Duany, of Duany Plater-Zyberk unveiled Katrina Cottage II, which can be used as a permanent solution to housing in hurricane-affected areas. Katrina Cottage II is a 770-square-foot, two bedroom model which was designed in the architectural traditions of South Louisiana. The cottage is constructed using foam-insulated panels and concrete Hardie Board which can withstand up to 145 mph winds. The structure can be constructed and delivered within three weeks for approximately \$70,000.

April 3, 2006

New Orleans postmark returns.

Residents began receiving letters canceled with a New Orleans postmark for the first time since Katrina hit Aug. 29.

April 10, 2006

The Division of Administration issues a Solicitation for Offers (SFO) for a private firm to manage Louisiana's *Road Home* housing program.

April 12, 2006

Governor Blanco and the LRA collect thousands of public comments and feedback on *The Road Home* housing plan.

The LRA and Governor Blanco hosted community meetings in Southeast and Southwest Louisiana to get feedback from residents and community leaders about the proposed *Road Home* housing plan. Thousands of comments and questions were received and responded to since the program was unveiled in February.

April 14, 2006

First Community Development Block Grant application submitted to HUD.

After receiving final approval today from the Louisiana Legislature, the plan for spending part of Louisiana's initial allotment of federal hurricane recovery dollars has been delivered to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington. As submitted, Louisiana's "action plan" requests \$368.4 million in supplemental Community Development Block Grants for Louisiana's Small Business Bridge Loan Program, local government emergency infrastructure, state building infrastructure, start-up costs for *The Road Home* housing program and administrative and technical assistance. The funding is part of \$6.2 billion appropriated by Congress in December for Louisiana's hurricane recovery. Another \$4.2 billion is currently under consideration in Congress.

April 18, 2006

Recovery School District opens first three schools.

Joseph A. Craig Elementary, Benjamin Banneker Elementary, and Joseph S. Clark Senior High School became the first three schools operational by the Louisiana Department of Education through the Recovery School District providing space for another 1,300 students in Orleans Parish.

April 21, 2006

Entergy corporate headquarters return to New Orleans.

Entergy returns its corporate headquarters to New Orleans eight months after its displacement due to Hurricane Katrina. The company is committed to help New Orleans rebuild and bring jobs back to its residents. Entergy delivers electricity to 2.7 million utility customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

April 26, 2006

LRA approves *The Road Home*; and forwards it to the Louisiana Legislature.

After collecting and responding to thousands of comments from homeowners, community advocates, members of the Legislature and elected officials, the LRA revamped key parts of the housing program, known as *The Road Home*, and voted unanimously (17-0) in favor of the revised plan. With this action, the plan will be sent to the Louisiana Legislature, then onto the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for final approval.

April 28, 2006

Jazz & Heritage Festival brings music back to *The Big Easy*. New Orleans kicked off the 37th annual Jazz & Heritage Festival -- its first since Hurricane Katrina -- with the theme "Witness the Healing Power of Music." An estimated 300,000 people attended the six-day festival.

May 4, 2006

U.S. Senate votes to approve legislation which includes an additional \$4.2 billion in hurricane recovery assistance; the emergency supplemental appropriations bill now heads to a joint conference committee for reconciliation.

May 9, 2006

Airport officials report business is booming at Lake Charles Regional.

As Lake Charles Regional recovers from damages sustained during Hurricane Rita, passengers in Southwest Louisiana don't seem to mind flying from temporary buildings and smaller spaces. Airport officials reported this week that business is up by 20% for the month of April and up 15% from 2005.

May 9, 2006

HUD approves first part of Louisiana's recovery plan.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Alphonso Jackson announces his approval of Louisiana's first action plan to spend \$368.4 million in Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs) to support Louisiana's Bridge Loan Program; repairs to local government emergency infrastructure, such as fire houses, police stations and sewer systems; state building infrastructure, such as roads, schools, universities and ports; and start-up costs for *The Road Home* housing plan. This crucial funding is part of \$6.2 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) assistance HUD has allocated to Louisiana. Governor Blanco submitted this phase of the action plan to HUD in April following legislative approval.

May 10, 2006

Louisiana Legislature unanimously votes to approve *The Road Home*.

After receiving final approval from the Louisiana Legislature, the plan for Louisiana's housing program, known as *The Road Home*, was delivered to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington for final approval.

May 17, 2006

Governor Blanco, LRA leaders participate in a televised discussion about *The Road Home*.

In an effort to inform citizens on the key principles of the housing program, the LRA partnered with Louisiana Public Broadcasting to produce a one-hour television program "Louisiana Public Square" which helped to clarify key parts of *The Road Home*. The program aired on LPB stations throughout Louisiana, and is now available online at www.lra.louisiana.gov.

May 22, 2006

Shell restores partial production at Mars platform.

Shell Exploration & Production Co. announces that partial oil and natural gas production has been resumed from its hurricane-damaged Mars production platform in the Gulf of Mexico, signaling an important step in the recovery of Louisiana's oil industry. Mars was the largest Gulf production platform damaged by Katrina, which, in combination with Hurricane Rita, heavily damaged production platforms and pipeline systems throughout the Gulf. The platform represents about 5 percent of the Gulf's daily oil and gas production.

May 24, 2006

New Orleans to host 2008 NBA All-Star game.

The National Basketball Association (NBA) announced this week that New Orleans will host the 2008 NBA All-Star Game. This four-day event is estimated to bring 50,000 visitors to the recovering city and have an economic impact between \$70 - \$100 million.

May 26, 2006

Rescued animals comeback to *The Big Easy*.

Nineteen African black-footed penguins and two sea otters were brought back to New Orleans earlier this week, after being rescued from the Aquarium of the Americas in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. After nearly nine months away from home, the city's beloved sea animals were sent back to The Big Easy on special flights, chartered by FedEx, just in time for the aquarium's reopening.

May 30

HUD approves *The Road Home* housing plan.

HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson announced his department's approval of Louisiana's housing plan, known as *The Road Home* which will stimulate reinvestment in Louisiana by: providing displaced homeowners with a maximum of up to \$150,000 for uninsured, uncompensated damages to repair, rebuild, relocate, or sell their homes; funding rental development incentives and other developer incentives designed to replace the tens of thousands of rental properties damaged or destroyed by the storms; and providing funds to increase shelter capacity for the homeless and funds for local governments to meet newly adopted building codes. Secretary Jackson's approval of *The Road Home* housing plan marks the next leg of the race, according to Governor Blanco, who called on Congress to pass the President's Supplemental Appropriations Bill that includes an additional \$4.2 billion in housing funding. When fully funded, *The Road Home* will represent by far the largest single housing reconstruction program in U.S. history.

June 1, 2006

Criminal Court Reopens in Orleans Parish

The Orleans Parish Criminal District Court building in New Orleans officially reopens nine months after Katrina.